

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COPAC)**

**Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2005  
Sacramento, CA**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Fred Rappleye  
Richard Krenzel  
James Rickert  
Larry Hirahara  
Kim Dietz  
Lauree Bradley  
Sean Swezey  
Rick Melnicoe  
Diane Cooner  
Stacy Carlsen  
Myron Cooper, Voting Alternate  
Karen Klonsky, Alternate

**CDFA REPRESENTATIVES**

Nate Dechoretz  
Rick Jensen  
Dave Carlson  
Susan Shelton

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Jake Lewin, CCOF  
Betsy Peterson, CSA  
William Bent, USDA  
Pat Kennelly, DHS Representative

**ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. Rick Jensen introduced Dave Carlson to the committee. As neither the Committee Chair nor Vice-Chair was in attendance the committee asked Dave to conduct the meeting. Dave called roll and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2005 MEETING MINUTES**

As the committee did not receive a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting, they will be voted on the next time the committee meets.

**ITEM 3: CHAIR REPORT**

No report at this time.

**ITEM 4: VICE CHAIR REPORT**

No report at this time.

## **ITEM 5: CDFA REPORT – DAVE CARLSON**

### **A. ENFORCEMENT REPORTS**

There were a total of forty-nine complaints in the 2004/05 fiscal year. Out of these, three were referred to DHS, three to the National Organic Program (NOP), five to the certifiers, six to the counties, and the rest were handled at CDFA.

Stacy Carlsen requested that the types of complaints and the originating county be shared with the county agricultural commissioners. A discussion ensued regarding the committee's desire to have a quarterly report showing the number and types of complaints. Sean Swezey requested that the committee receive a quarterly report of complaints filed; this report will also be shared with CACASA. The report will not include names.

### **B. REGISTRATION REPORT**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>No. of New Registrations</u>	<u>No. of Renewal Registrations</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2002/2003	250	1,804	2,054
2003/2004	247	1,985	2,232
2004/2005	284	1,945	2,229

### **C. PROGRAM FUTURE DIRECTION**

CDFA will be working with certifiers and counties on a closer basis. After the new staff is trained CDFA will be conducting more farmers' market inspections, retail inspections and surveillance. It is also anticipated that verification of on-line retail shippers will begin.

State forms are currently being updated. CDFA has met with a number of counties to identify possible changes. Once the new forms and organic manual have been updated a series of county and industry workshops will be held.

### **D. NEW REGISTRATION SOFTWARE AND MAPPING**

The new software is nearing completion. On a trial basis, all new and renewed registrations are being entered against the backdrop of the old program. After all the bugs have been fixed the utilization of the new program will begin.

The mapping program is also nearing completion. A live demonstration of the nearly completed final product is scheduled. Other programs within the

Department are anxious to see our product so they can modify it for their own needs.

#### E. MISCELLANEOUS

Dave Carlson reported that the USDA has approved an additional \$400,000 for the cost share program. CDFA will allocate \$100,000 for each quarter and will be dispersed on a first come, first serve basis. New applications were handed out to the committee and have been mailed to CDFA organic registrants. Department of Health Services (DHS) will be forwarded a copy so that they can also send it out to their registrants.

CDFA has received many good candidates for COPAC appointments. Rick Jensen asked the committee if they were interested in reviewing the applicants for recommendation to the Secretary for appointment. The committee decided that they would like to form a subcommittee for appointment review.

It was proposed that Joe Hall chair the Appointment Subcommittee with Kim Dietz, Sean Swezey, Diane Cooner, and James Rickert as members. They requested that this subcommittee review the nominees for the upcoming November 2005 appointments.

**MOTION:** Kim Dietz moved to create the Appointment Subcommittee as proposed. Sean Swezey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 6: DHS REPORT – PAT KENNELLY**

Pat Kennelly reported that DHS currently has about 825 organic registrants. He also stated that since June DHS has received six complaints, three of which were referred from CDFA. Four complaints were for operations not certified and/or registered. Three notices of violation were written; one was unsubstantiated. Two complaints were for misbranded product. One notice of violation was written and one was unsubstantiated.

#### **ITEM 7: MEMBER REPORTS**

Kim Dietz reported that the USDA's National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) would be meeting on November 16-17, 2005. They will be reviewing the continued use or prohibition of substances listed under the Organic Food Production Act's sunset provisions for the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

### **ITEM 8: IMPACT REPORT TO USDA ON HARVEY RESULTS – GAY TIMMONS**

There was no report by Gay Timmons as she was unable to attend the meeting. However, Dave Carlson reported that Gay wishes to request CDFA or the industry to send comments to the National Organic Program (NOP) staff on the impacts of the Harvey lawsuit.

Ray Green has spoken with Gay and stated that there needs to be a more defined target in order for CDFA to hold listening sessions to gather comments. He did contact Mark Bradley, NOP Program Manager, to offer assistance if they need input on future program changes.

There are several pieces of legislation that could correct the problem. One, if passed, would require the NOP to file a report with Congress that would show the affect upon the industry if and when it is required to adapt to the lawsuit. Also, legislation is being drafted that would change the law and therefore nullify the lawsuit in terms of making the legislation support the regulations as currently written.

The committee discussed the damage to the industry that would occur if labeling changed from “organic” to “made with organic materials”.

### **ITEM 9: SET MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR**

Meeting dates have been set for February 15, May 17, August 16, and November 15, 2006.

### **ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS**

Dave Carlson stated that the Fertilizer Program within CDFA is handling the Department of Toxic Substance Control Perchlorate draft regulations. The final emergency regulation is targeted for filing with the Office of Administrative Law on December 1, 2005.

Rick Melnicoe gave each committee member a copy of the 2005 Annual Report for the Western Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center. The report details information regarding the eight IPM grants, IPM Center activities, work groups, and various miscellaneous updates.

This will be Richard Krengel’s last meeting as a member of COPAC. Richard was thanked for all his hard work over the years on the organic industries behalf. Sean

Swezey especially thanked him for his pioneering and educational work in the organic poultry industry.

**ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT**

Sean Swezey moved to adjourn the meeting. Lauree Bradley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Ray Green, Supervisor  
California Organic Program  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services